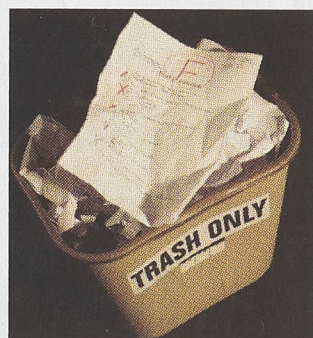




VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

los angeles valley college's



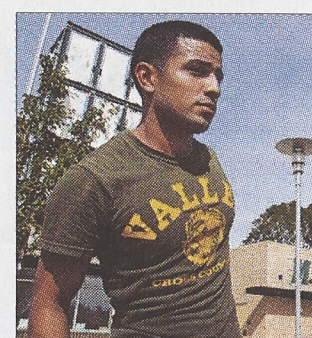
Valley Star editors discuss both sides of grade grievances at Valley College.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3



A memorial service was held Oct. 16, to commemorate the passing of Shannon Stack

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4



The Valley College men's cross country team looks to make a championship title run.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

lavalleystar.com

October 27, 2010

Volume 73 Issue 5

Grade Grievances Give Students Voice

Grade grievances give students a podium to change grade errors.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College students who have legitimate complaints regarding grades assigned to them by an instructor have a place to voice their concern in the Student Grievance Procedures. The process is an available outlet for any student to prove to a committee, set up by the college, that they did not receive the grade they earned in class.

"It's worthwhile if a student really thinks they have the proof to go forward with the process," said Annie Reed, associate dean of student services. "It's their right to, [but] we don't encourage frivolous [cases], because that's a waste of college resources."

According to the grade grievance procedure, a student's grade is solely determined by the instructor, unless fraud, bad faith, or incompetence is proven. Without proof of error on the part of an instructor the grade "shall be final."

If a student questions a grade they received in a class they have 120 days to file a grievance unless the statute of limitation is unfair to the student, according to Reed. The student is advised to first contact the professor. If they are unable to contact the professor it is suggested that they contact the department chair followed by the area dean. If the student is unsatisfied after talking with all three parties it is then recommended that the student files an E-55 statement of grievance form, with the grade grievance officer.

"They have to remember we're all human and every once in a while faculty does make errors," Valley President Sue Carleo said. "They need to go and talk to the instructor directly and that often is all it takes to fix the error, if that's the case, or help the student better understand why they got the grade."

According to Reed, many grievances fall upon a student's lack of understanding in the way a certain instructor solidifies a grade at the end and during the semester.

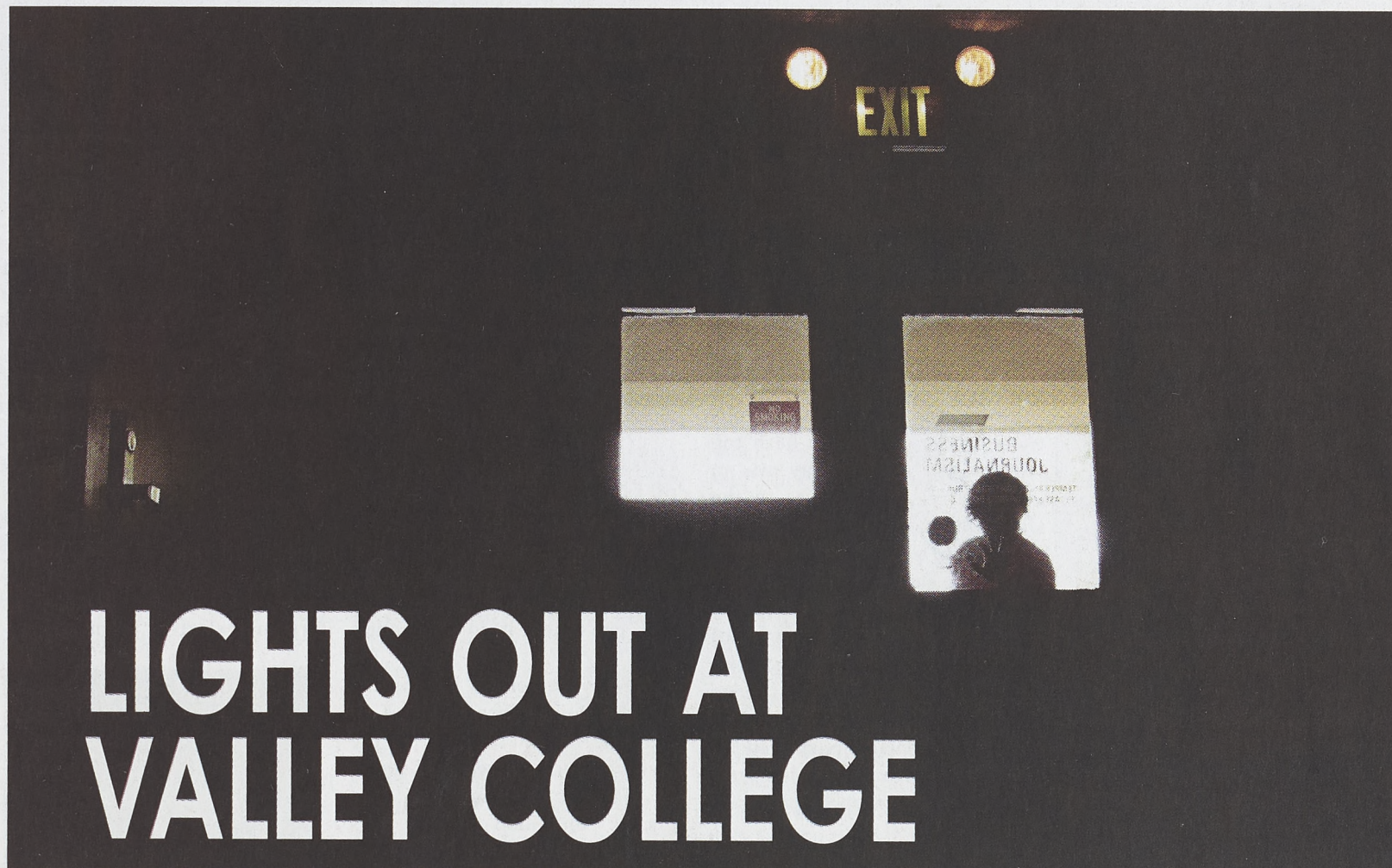
"I believe that teachers don't tell us anything until the end of the semester, if at all," Valley student Sherron Tillman said. "I've never seen my letter grades. I've just seen percentages."

The Los Angeles Community Colleges Office of the Chancellor Administrative Regulations states that an ombudsperson, in this case Annie Reed, is appointed in order to mediate and resolve the situation between the student and the instructor. If no compromise is made the student can then request to file a hearing in which a grievance committee will decide if the student's allegations prove that there was fraud, bad faith, or incompetence when the questioned grade was assigned.

"Grade questions do not always turn into grievances ... they [often] get resolved," Reed said. "My job is a facilitator. It's not an advocate for the grievant (student) or the responder (teacher); I make sure it's fair."

According to Reed, 12 grade grievances were filed per semester last year and approximately six of these made it to the hearing stage of the process. Of those six, about half resulted in a grade change.

For more information about grade grievances please visit www.lavc.edu/compliance/compliance.html

[See **GRIEVANCE**, Page 2]

BLACKOUT- A Valley College student outside the Business Journalism building investigated the power outage that lead to the cancellation of evening classes Tuesday.

Valley College experienced a campus-wide power outage Tuesday afternoon.

J.P SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Valley College is emphasizing the importance of their emergency text messaging system after an electrical power outage occurred on campus around 2 p.m. Monday, causing officials to can-

cel evening classes. According to Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer, the outage affected 75 percent of the campus and the return of power and regular operations.

Jacobsmeyer has stated that while maintenance and operations had cleared all buildings on campus along with the sheriff's department, communication was difficult and not everyone got all the info in a timely manner. Jacobsmeyer further stated that a power outage has the effect of reducing communica-

tion capability because so much of what is used to communicate with requires power. One of the items that does not require direct power and will most likely work in most emergencies is a text messaging system.

Valley's text messaging alert system will send out information regarding emergency situations and can keep the entire college community up to date on activity and class scheduling. Putting your number into the ALERTU system at <http://www.lavc.edu/alertusignup.html> is

brief and can give you a heads up during a campus emergency.

Valley student Roberto Romo thinks such a program is a great idea. "I definitely like that idea. I think that if I receive some sort of notice telling me what happened at school, I wouldn't have to make an unnecessary trip."

The college does not use this information for anything other than emergency notification and information. No advertising or sale of phone numbers takes place.

Valley Students Take the Dream Act into Their Own Hands

Valley students created the first club on campus to focus on the DREAM Act.

JAVIERA INFANTE
STAFF WRITER

A group of Valley College students joined together to create the Dreamers Movement Union, the first club on campus to solely focus on the DREAM Act, AB 540, and immigrant students' issues.

AB 540 is a California assembly bill passed in 2001, which allows immigrant students to pay in-state tuition in higher education institutions instead of international tuition so long as they have completed at least three years of and graduate from high school, according to AB540.com.

"My AB 540 status affects me so much economically," said Ivette Becerra, intern at Valley's Political Action Coalition and member of the Dreamers Movement Union as well. "I have to save money to pay for this fall semester and hopefully make it in the winter session, if not in the spring." She continues, "It is very stressful."

According to DreamAct.org, the DREAM Act is a federal legislation that would allow immigrants who come to the United States as minors to obtain a six-year-long temporary residency. In order to be eligible for the benefits of the DREAM Act,

students must have finished a bachelor's degree, completed at least two years in a higher education facility or served two years in the armed forces.

With an AB 540 status, high school grads are only able to pay for college on their own as they are not eligible for federal or state financial aid. Currently, they are not allowed to obtain either a California identification card or driver license and they cannot obtain a work permit to get a job to support themselves.

"Being AB 540 is a boundary, but if I see it from a positive perspective it unites us all and makes us stronger and work even harder," added Becerra.

"The DREAM Act will allow me to do greater things without limitations. I'll be finally be able to drive instead of walking up to two hours [ahead] just to get to school on time. I will be able to call myself an American," said a club member who asked to be identified as "Mayra."

"I love this country as my own and wish I was given the opportunity to contribute all my potential and experience," continued the student.

One way the Dream Movement Union hopes to help immigrant students is by creating a scholarship program for AB 540s.

Crisoforo Gonzalez, an active member of the club, said, "Our mission is to create awareness about the AB 540 issue, promote education among AB 540 students, and most important of all to help each other."



CAPS ONLY ON TITLE - Caption goes here with no fonts.

STUDENT DETAINED ON CAMPUS TUESDAY

Valley College student Samuel Lara was detained by the Sheriff's Department yesterday.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Six officers detained Valley College student Samuel Lara Tuesday for causing a disturbance and being uncooperative with officers inside the Business Journalism Building while investigating a campus-wide power outage, according to Deputy Ricky R. Baker.

"Officers were not seeking to interact with Mr. Lara inside the Business Journalism Building," Baker said. "They were managing a power outage and investigating suspicious activity. He then addressed them with racial slurs and then failing to comply with the officers' questions, led to his detention," said

Baker. "Because of his conduct and lack of cooperation during the contact, this incident is still being reviewed and investigated."

Charges were recently brought against Lara for an incident at a spring 2010 Associated Student Union meeting. The charges brought against him include Willful Disobedience (9803.10), Threatening Behavior (9803.24), and Violation of College Rules and Regulations (9803.11). According to Lara, he has been instructed to meet with a college counselor one per week, attend six sessions with the college psychiatrist, and write a letter of apology to the ASU.

Despite his previous charges, Lara insists he was only standing up for the student who was being talked to in a disrespectful manner by the officers. He continued that he was cooperative with the officers who were excessively rough in

THE LOW DOWN JUST LIKE WATER

Blood is not thicker than politics in America.

CRISTINA
SERRATO



The choices you make in life determine who you are or who you become, however the only thing you cannot choose is your family. With luck, a branch on your family tree will not be held by your political arch enemy. Distant cousins President Barack Obama and Sarah Palin have no such luck.

"In the modern world since families do not consider third or fourth generation cousins as important people can forget who they are related to," said Valley student Edward Serrano. "Therefore, Obama and Palin being distant relatives is a bit of a shock still, but more like wow."

Oct. 13, 2010 genealogists from Utah-based Ancestry.com announced findings, which showed that President Obama and vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin are 10th cousins. Despite their many differences they share matriarchal great-grandfather, John Smith who was [See **COLUMN**, Page 2]

ASU Meeting Cancelled

The Associated Student Union meeting was cancelled Tuesday due to a lack of material to discuss. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 2

MONARCH FOOTBALL



Conference

The Monarchs' victory Saturday against Santa Barbara gives them a 3-0 conference record.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW



Photos of the Week: Construction

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

[See **LARA**, Page 2]

lavalleystar.com

Do you have a news tip? >> Send us your news tip to valleystar@lavalleystar.com or join us on Facebook.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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BULLYING IS NO LONGER JUST ON PLAYGROUNDS

With "Spirit Day," cyberbullying becomes more apparent to children, teens and young adults.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

Oct. 20 seemed like an ordinary day to many, but to countless Facebook users who wore the color purple and the numerous users who tweeted the hash tag "Spirit Day," the fall day was an event to raise awareness to the six young adults who lost their lives to bullying on and offline.

Spirit Day on Oct. 20, was a day to show "support for the teens who took their lives because of anti-LGBT bullying," according to The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Web site.

"I'm wearing purple today to support the cause against bullying," said anthropology major, Ashley Romero.

Music major, Brian Sears also wore purple on Wednesday to show solidarity. "Compassion to me is a very important virtue and no one should feel less than who they are."

Spirit Day honored the six teenagers, Tyler Clementi, Asher Brown, Seth Walsh, Justin Aaberg, Raymond Chase and Billy Lucas who recently took their lives due to being bullied on and offline. The idea of Spirit

Day was also "a way to show the hundreds of thousands of LGBT youth who face the same pressures and bullying, that there is a vast community of people who support them," stated the GLAAD Web site about Spirit Day.

According to the Cyberbullying Research Center, cyberbullying is known as "willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices."

Journalism major, Noelle Arias knows her fair share of cyberbullying. "There was an online burn book at my high school," said Arias. "(Cyberbullying) is very immature. You're a coward because you can't say it to someone's face."

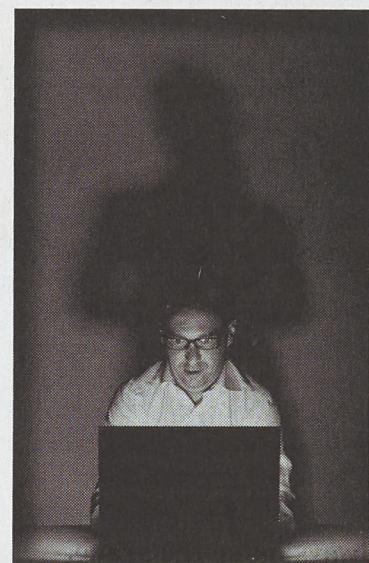
Forty percent of kids in the US say they've been bullied on the Internet, according to the Cyberbullying Research Center.

The online bullying also occurs "on video sharing sites such as YouTube, instant messaging on the Internet or text messaging ... portable gaming devices ... 3-D virtual worlds and social gaming sites, and in newer interactive sites such as Formspring and ChatRoulette," from a report from the Cyberbullying Research Center about the identification, prevention and response about cyberbullying.

There are many effects to one

who is cyber-bullied. According to Robin M. Kowalski, Ph.D. in her article, "Cyber Bullying: Recognizing and Treating Victim and Aggressor," children who have been cyber-bullied are hesitant to tell others about what happened, and they fail to understand that they have been cyber-bullied because of fear that they will be further victimized if the bully gets into trouble and reacts.

There are many ways to prevent cyberbullying; the United States Computer Emergency Readiness' Web site recommends to "report the activity to the local authorities. Law enforcement agencies have different policies, but your local police department or FBI branch are good starting points."



LAVC'S NEWS BRIEF SUMMARIES

By: Barry Jacob

CALIFORNIA NEWS

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA — 40 people were arrested, sixteen people were sent to the hospital, and paramedics assisted an additional 36 patients at Monster Massive — a Halloween-themed rave hosted at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. According to police reports, the arrests involved were charges of narcotic possession and trespassing.

EAST OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA — Attorney General Eric Holder ordered a raid on an East Oakland marijuana growth facility, seizing cash and equipment in a recent flex of federal muscle against Californian state power. Holder has publicly come out opposing Prop 19, saying he will enforce federal drug laws no matter how voters decide.

NATIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON D.C. — According to David Lipsetz, a senior adviser associated with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the country's housing authority is short \$22 to \$32 billion needed to rehabilitate its 150,000 public housing buildings.

WASHINGTON D.C. — The US Navy has effectively changed its longstanding male-only policy by giving women the right to serve on submarines. Currently, 24 women are training to serve on four submarines starting December 2011.

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO — 20-year-old Marisol Valles Garcia has been appointed chief of law enforcement operations in Praxedis Guerrero — a town home to 10,000 residents. Garcia, a criminology student, is the most recent police chief appointment in a town ravaged by drug cartel violence.

JUAREZ, MEXICO — Gunmen entered a birthday party of a working-class neighborhood in Ciudad Juarez shouting for the death of "El Raton" (the rat in Spanish), spraying gunfire relentlessly into a crowd of partygoers, killing 14 people, including a 13-year-old girl. Ciudad Juarez has become the center of Mexico's battle against drugs cartels.

EUROPEAN NEWS

BERLIN, GERMANY — Chancellor Angela Merkel says Germany's attempt to foster multiculturalism in German society has "failed totally." She called on the country's immigrants to learn German and adapt to Christian values. "We feel tied to Christian values. Those who don't accept them don't have a place here," said Merkel, bowing to conservative pressure and support.

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WATERS RUN RED WITH JAPANESE DOLPHIN BLOOD

Despite the efforts of the Save Japan Dolphins campaign, dolphins continue to be slaughtered in the cove.

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

As Valley College students sit in their classrooms focused on mid-terms, more than 5,000 miles away high-pitched screams fill the air, signifying that dolphin-slaughter season is in full swing in Taiji, Japan.

Every September dolphins are lured into a secret cove in Taiji to be terrorized, exploited for performance at zoos, and slaughtered by Japanese fishermen during a six-month dolphin drive hunt. Most Japanese locals have no idea this annual massacre is taking place. For a region that seems to worship dolphins, Taiji sure has a funny way of showing it.

International Save Japan Dolphins Day took place on Oct. 14 in front of Embassies and Consulates of the Government of Japan as a lawful protest of the dolphin slaughter that continues each year. Ric O'Barry, director of the Save Japan Dolphins campaign, brought to light the brutal slaughtering with his Academy Award-Winning documentary, "The Cove" in 2009.

"I was really moved by the film because it gives us such a blatant image of what these dolphins have gone through," said Valley student Amanda D'Amico. "It's sad to think that we keep dolphins hostage for our entertainment."

According to "The Cove," an estimated 23,000 dolphins are killed annually. That's 4,000 more than there were students enrolled at Valley last fall.

The dolphins are initially captured to sell to zoos, aquarium owners and swim-with-dolphin programs for entertainment purposes. The fact that dolphins belong in the vast ocean and not in tiny, salt-water pools is never taken into consideration.

"Dolphins are free-ranging, intelligent, and complex wild animals," said O'Barry. "They belong in the oceans, not playing the clown in our human schemes."

Those dolphins that are not recruited to be a part of a "SeaWorld-like" park are slaughtered and the highly mercury-contaminated dolphin meat is sold throughout Japan as whale meat. Not only is the dolphin slaughter an animal rights issue, but the distribution of dolphin meat threatens the health of those who become ill from mercury poisoning.

The Elsa Nature Conservancy of Japan tested hundreds of samples of dolphin meat and found disturbing levels of mercury and other pollutants in the meat. The findings, which were reported to the International Whaling Commission,

BULLYING TURNS VICIOUS IN A CYBER WORLD

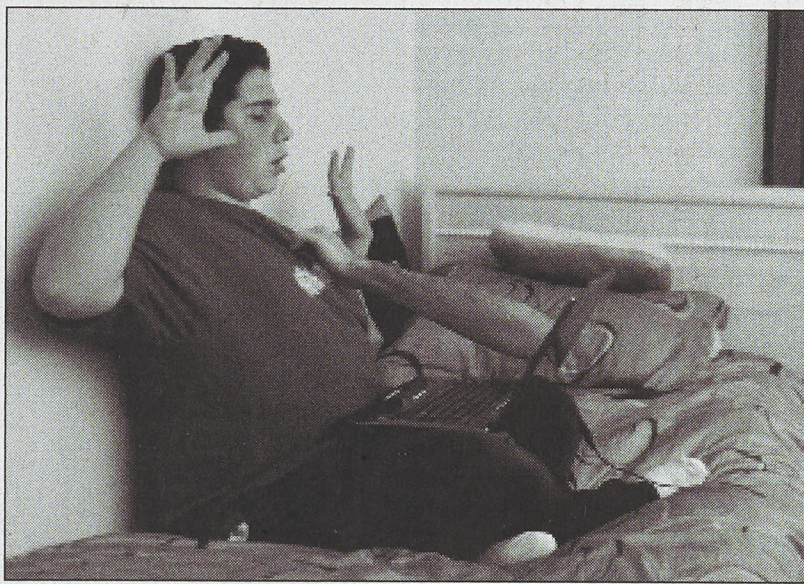


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

The Internet has given new-age bullies a new outlet to wreak more havoc and hide from those they torment.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Cyber bullying is the latest serious crime that has resulted in devastating consequences; awareness must be taught in order to stop cruel behavior. Currently 45 states have anti-bullying and harassment laws but not all of them address cyber bullying, which has been the cause of several suicides in the past

weeks.

Bullying is a stupid pastime that is tearing apart society and weakening ethics. Tyler Clementi, a 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University, decided he could no longer continue living after his roommate streamed a video of him on the Internet engaging in a homosexual encounter. Clementi was one of several students in the month of September who felt overwhelmed by cyber bullying. Constant tormenting directed at Billy Lucas, Asher Brown and Seth Walsh pushed them over the top until they couldn't take any more. They all took their own lives.

"It's really sad, stuff like this happens and people don't care," said Valley College student Mayra Hernandez.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and others who are perceived as "different" are often targeted. According to Newsweek, one in five students are bullied each year and nine of 10 LGBT youth are affected.

"Petty teasing" used to be a problem that occurred on campus and was forgotten by the end of the school day. Now bullies create an impossible world to live in and victims are prisoners of threats, rude comments, and stalking.

"It's not right what they are doing. People think they are better than others because they are straight. They [LGBT youth] are humans just like anyone else and should be treated with respect," said Stacey Bernal, Valley administration of justice major.

The Internet has become the latest intimidating tactic for public humiliation because it is accessible at any given moment. Cyber bullying is uncontrollable and hard to monitor. Victims are left devastated because content on the Internet can be viewed by the entire world. This modern day version of bullying poses a new threat and pushes victims to suicide. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will

never hurt me" is a saying that is not necessarily true.

According to Newsweek, LGBT youth are four times more likely to commit suicide and suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students according to Suicide.org, a non-profit organization.

No one should indulge in cruel behavior or contribute to someone else's death. College students have a difficult time as it is, adding fuel to the fire is wrong. In order to reduce bullying, people need to be reminded simply how to treat and respect others. Part of maturing is to accept others' differences or look the other way.

CYBER BULLYING STATISTICS

-42 percent of kids have been bullied while online.

-53 percent of kids admit to bullying another online.

-58 percent of victims have not told a parent or adult about the cyber bullying.

VICTIMS OF CYBER BULLYING:

-36 percent of 13-year-olds

-41 percent of 14-year-olds

-54 percent of 15-year-olds

-53 percent of 16-year-olds

-33 percent of 17-year-olds

Courtesy of www.isafe.org
and www.ncpc.org

SOMETIMES HARD WORK JUST ISN'T ENOUGH

College students are finding that hard work, studying, class attendance, and participation doesn't always make the grade.

KELLY DAVIS
OPINION EDITOR

Somewhere along the way, it's been forgotten that the purpose of college is to gain information and skills that will help students for the rest of their lives. For decades, college has been celebrated as a time for students to play hard because once it's over, it will be time to work hard.

Certain college degrees allow us to practice law, medicine, educate, be scientists, and work in many other professions. But without the knowledge that is supposed to be gained in college, students will be incapable of effectively working in these areas. Yet, more and more students are subscribing to the thought that if they show up for class, participate, complete homework and tests, they should earn a good grade.

Researchers at UC Irvine recently found that 40 percent of students felt they deserved a B for reading all required material, and a third felt that because they attended all lectures they should get a B.

Professor Ellen Greenberger the lead author of the UC Irvine study cites a sense of entitlement as the culprit. Pressure from parents and peer competition most likely cause students to feel a sense of accomplishment from getting high grades.

The real accomplishment should come from acquiring the

knowledge that merits the high grades. Yet, some students seem to feel satisfied with the grades alone and go to great lengths to make the grade. Beg, borrow, or steal, some students just want the high GPA, regardless of whether or not they actually deserve it.

California Education Code Section 76224(a) states, "When grades are given for any course of instruction taught in a community college district, the grade given to each student shall be the grade determined by the instructor of the course and the determination of the student's grade by the instructor, in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency, shall be final."

Arguing, manipulating, and persuading won't get students the grade they want, nor should it. Meeting standard requirements of a course doesn't default as an A grade. If anything, class attendance, participation, completion of homework and tests should merit a C. An A should be given only when the student shows high achievement in a course. Thorough understanding and mastery of course material merits an A.

Sure it would be great if every student could make it through college and get good grades in the process. But society really doesn't need colleges handing out grades and degrees to students who really don't know what they are talking about, just because they showed up for class. True personal achievement should be based on the knowledge one has, not the degree they were able to gain based on the grades they were able to talk themselves into.

Bureaucracy begins with a 'B' but averages with an 'F.'

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

The Student Grievance Procedure is a fantastic bureaucratic program that's in place to rectify any grade errors considering it's so hard for students to transfer to a four-year college. It's a double-edged sword.

A Valley Star article stated that 24 grade grievance cases were justified this past year. Let alone how many have been justified in totality.

Valley College President Sue Carleo said, "They [students] have to remember we're all human and every once in a while faculty does make errors."

She does make a valid point, of the thousands of students that come in and out of Valley every semester, 24 cases seems like such a low number. Except when it comes to grade grievances, it's hard to look at these figures and accept these statements on such a macro level when the results of the grades are on such an individual level. When grades are at such a premium, and not only make the difference between a good college and a great college never mind just transferring at all, 24 cases is too many.

It just appears that there is no proper justification. If a student receives a faulty grade, that grade impacts a student's opportunity for a multitude of things be it selection of college, just transferring at all, financial aid, loan programs, or scholarships. These are serious repercussions that a student has to live with. But it's unclear what impact an overturned grade has on a teacher. Do they get a slap on the wrist, or fired, does it even

register, or does it not even matter when they have tenure up the wazoo?

It is appreciated that Carleo even commented on this issue considering it can be a touchy subject, but her previous statement sounds funny juxtaposed to grievance guidelines.

According to the grade grievance procedure, a student's grade is solely determined by the instructor unless fraud, bad faith, or incompetence is proven. Without proof of error on the part of an instructor, the grade "shall be final."

Fraud, bad faith and incompetence are indeed human characteristics. It's not acceptable when so much is riding on the line for the students. Here is where the double-edged sword comes in. "Without proof of error on the part of an instructor, the grade 'shall be final'."

It begs the question how do you prove fraud or bad faith? It's hard to prove that when so many teachers are generally vague about a student's grade until it's too late. Most students don't even know what bad faith is and it's hard to pull off incompetence without sounding whiny.

Regarding grade grievance, Associate Dean of Student Services Annie Reed said, "It's worthwhile if a student really thinks they have the proof to go forward with the process." Reed also stated, "It's their right to, [but] we don't encourage frivolous [cases], because that's a waste of college resources."

No arguments there. For as many teachers that do make mistakes, there are exponentially more students who wouldn't mind wasting college resources to weasel a higher grade. But with better student/teacher communication, resources wouldn't be wasted to begin with.

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID ... SHUT UP AND VOTE

Adults ages 18-29 put up a baseless fight for educational funding.

KELLY DAVIS



Community colleges feel the burn of the downfall of the economy, experiencing budget cuts left and right.

It could be argued that one of the last areas that should be cut is education. This generation's students are the future of this country. If we fail to educate them, this country will fail to persevere.

But still, budgets are cut, promised funds are never received, and financial aid to students is skimmed.

Tuition is increased, classes overcrowded, teachers let go, and courses are unavailable.

Students protest, they march in Sacramento, participate in nationwide walk-out/teach-in days, and complain incessantly that community colleges can't continue to suffer the downfalls of the economy and California's massive deficit.

Yet the one thing that students should be doing that could actually make a difference, they shy away from. They don't vote. At least, the majority of them don't.

When adults ages 18-20 earned the right to vote in the '70s, slightly over 60 percent of adults ages 18-29 were registered to vote. Currently, that statistic is around 50 percent. And still, in the 2006 midterm election, only 25 percent of that age group actually showed up to vote.

Seventy-five percent of young adults are leaving the major decision making up to the rest of us only to pitch a fit when things don't go their way. As if anyone could possibly know how they would like things, seeing as they don't vote.

It's no wonder politicians aren't pulling for college students, as they matter very little when it comes to getting elected.

If, as the generation of tomorrow, we are not involved in the decisions that shape our future, do we really deserve funding or are state officials right in slashing our budgets?

A recent poll at the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found that 55 percent of adults under 30 are dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country. And yet only 45 percent say they will definitely vote and only 31 percent say they have actually given a lot of thought to the elections.

Which is further proof that this age bracket doesn't deserve what they feel they are entitled to. New voters are just pissing in the wind, never knowing who or what they are voting for.

Are we hanging on to the teenage mentality that the decisions we make today won't affect us tomorrow? Perhaps we feel incompetent to make the adult decisions that are asked of us. Maybe we're afraid we'll make the wrong decision. But please, just make a decision. Vote because you want to see change. Vote because you want to legalize pot. Vote because you aren't happy with how things are today. Vote because you can. Vote for someone or something. Just vote.

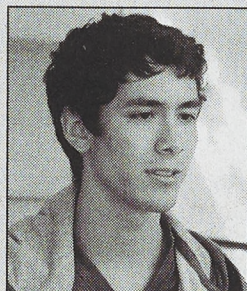
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VALLEY VIEW

HOW DO YOU REACT TO A PROFESSOR AFTER YOU RECEIVED A GRADE YOU DIDN'T WANT?



"I try to see what I did wrong. Most of the teachers grade you for what you put into the class."

-JUAN CAMBEROS
UNDECIDED



"If I generally felt I didn't deserve it, I would think that I would feel resentful."

-TIM SHIN
MATHEMATICS



"Violence, because it's not fair. I don't get F's. If I do, I'm so sad, a target for retail therapy."

-MARIANA GAETA
BIOLOGY



"The grade is really up to me more than the professor. The professor could be good, but if I didn't study, then it's my fault."

-SUSAN EZZOUR
COMPUTER SCIENCE



"I tell all of my friends not to take him. I wouldn't put him on ratemyprofessor...I think that's stupid."

-JAKE GRANITZ
GENERAL EDUCATION

PHOTOS BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

LAVC
Events

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 27th
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.**ASU Chicano/Latino Heritage Day.**

Associated Student Union, Spanish Club, and Broadcasting Club is holding a "Chicano/Latino heritage and Day" featuring folklore music, dancers, and speakers talkin about Chicano/Latino heritage and culture. Monarch Hall. To request an accommodation, contact Christian Fierro, ASU commissioner of public relations at cfierro@msn.com or call 818-947-2918

Wednesday, 27th
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**The LAVC Student Health Center is holding an event for "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."**

The event will feature the opportunity for members of the campus to dedicate a ribbon in honor of someone who is a breast cancer survivor or someone who has lost their battle with breast cancer. Ribbons will be attached to a pink balloon and displayed in Monarch Hall. There will also be breast exam demonstrations on a prosthetic model. Monarch Square. For more information, contact the Student Health Center at 818-947-2918

Friday, 29th

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LAVC Job Club meeting.

This popular program provides job seekers with a golden opportunity to network with others, peruse job leads, meet with professional job counselors, and refine their job search techniques. The unique program has been highly successful in returning people to the workforce. Cafeteria Conference Room. For more information, visit www.lavc.edu/jobtraining/jobclub.html.

Friday, 29th

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The California Community Colleges' Success Network is holding its "LINKS: Learning in Networks for Knowledge Sharing" workshop.

Millions of students come through the open doors of California Community Colleges, but only a fraction of them complete essential pathways, achieve credentials or degrees, or become transfer ready. This seminar will explore what happens in between, and what can we do to help. It will examine data, review high leverage strategies to increase student success, and apply tools (logic models, gap analysis, and data benchmarking) to identify and address momentum points that lead successful completion of longer pathways. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact 3CSN at (213) 891-2104 or larn@3csn.org. To register online, visit <http://calendar.3csn.org/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=95>.

OCTOBER 31ST - NOVEMBER 3RD

Jacquelyn Hams to Present at the Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting
Jacquelyn E. Hams, chair of the Earth Sciences/Anthropology Department, has been invited to present at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America on October 31-November 3, 2010. She will make two presentations: "A Pilot Project to Improve Math Skills in Introductory Geoscience Classes at a Two Year College" and "A Teacher-Research Experience in the Dry Lakes Region of Antarctica". Congratulations Jackie!

IN MEMORIAM

History professor and department chair of the history department Shannon Stack passes away at the age of 71.**IVAN ZUNIGA**
ONLINE EDITOR

Dedicating more than 40 years of service, Shannon Stack devoted her life to her students and campus here at Valley College, until she passed away on July 1, 2010 of cancer. Recently the Academic Senate established the Shannon Stack Memorial Scholarship representing the excellence she established over the years.

"So much of the support that I received since the passing has been through the staff and faculty administrators at Valley," said Dana Irwin, Shannon's son. "That is something I am really happy about and I think that is a very good way to represent her at Valley is having a perpetual scholarship to honor the academic success of students at the school."

Stack received her Ph.D. in history at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1975. Since then, she has taught history, humanities, law and philosophy until 2007. Along with teaching, she served as the department chair in the history department and was involved

in the shared governance process in which she was the Academic Senate president twice.

"She just wanted to install life-long love of history in her students," said Joyce Romero, international students counselor who was good friends with Stack. "I loved her she's a great woman, a little eccentric, but just a wonderful woman that cared about students."

A memorial service was held for Stack on Oct. 16, 2010, Valley President Sue Carleo and other faculty members like Jon Maddox, Barbra Goldberg and Joanna Waddell showed up to the event hosted by her son Dana Irwin.

She was married to Eddie Irwin who was a journalism professor at Valley from 1961-1984. When Stack was diagnosed with cancer, it had metastasized to the point in which it could not be located on her body.

"I will miss our discussions on history, her love of life and her impact on Valley College which she loved," said Rose Drummond of the Academic Senate. "She worked tirelessly on many committees to continue to innovate and share relations with faculty, administration, and the district."

Stack made it possible to keep the integrity of Valley strong by improving campus programs, making learning more enjoyable for students and going the extra mile to help them become more successful. Stack Retired from Valley in Spring 2007.



SHANNON STACK

PROFICIENT JAZZ TRIO LEAVES STUDENTS AWESTRICKEN

Matt Corey Trio plays combination of jazz and classical in Wednesday's free concert.**DAVID MOTTE**
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

In what was undoubtedly the best performance of the semester, The Matt Corey Trio graced Valley College's Music Recital Hall with a unique mixture of jazz and 20th Century classical music Wednesday afternoon, as part of the music department's on-going Free Concert Series.

The proficient trio consisting of Matt Corey on stand-up bass, Richard Sears on piano, and Zach Harmon on drums indulged the audience with their expert improvisations of two Johann Sebastian Bach compositions, adding a jazzy twist to the well-known classical pieces. Corey appropriately raised a bow to his bass strings to replicate the sounds of a cello for these sonatas. The group also played several more straight forward tunes including the eccentric "Sonata 1963" by Frank Proto.

Like any good jazz performance, instrumental solos were par for the course. Corey and Harmon skillfully proved their proficiency on the bass and drums; however, it was Sears who stole the show more than once with his dexterity on the piano. His soulful playing seemingly left an impression on the attending music students who energetically applauded with sincerity after each of his solos.

Most of the trio's set consisted of instrumentals, with the exception of two songs. The first being "Walking Happy/ On the Street Where You Live," for which the group invited Music Professor and Free Concert host Christian Nova to take on the cabaret-style vocal duties. The second, which was the finale, and unmistakably the highlight of the performance, was a jazzy rendition of the George Harrison-penned Beatles song, "Something." Corey humbly sang the tune himself, and in typical jazz fashion, the three members tastefully made room for alternating solos, and again Sears did not fail to impress with his agile fingers while making the famous melody his own.

Matt Corey has served as the musical director at The Foundry on Melrose for the past three years and can be found there on weekends playing with Hammond and an alternating list of musicians, including some of Los Angeles' finest such as Larry Koonse, Bruce Forman, and Tigran Hamasyan to name a few. Richard Sears is currently finishing an album featuring his compositions for a quartet that combines influences in rock and free jazz.

The next installment of the Free Concert Series will feature the LAVC Jazz Band directed by Dr. Woodrow James. The performance will be held in the Music Instrumental Room (M112) on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. and admission is free.



SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

CLASSICAL JAZZ - Matt Corey (Right) and Richard Sears (Left) perform.TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE
WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DECADE CAN MAKE**An exercise in poor taste that happened to redefine social parameters.****J.P. SPENCE**

Take a film like "Hereafter," a movie filled to the brim with drama, character and plot twists, but still lacking a proper niche, if only for the simple reason that the time period doesn't resonate with the audience or they don't like a specific character just because.

Farting on the other hand seems to have the direct route to the funny bone. Even if some people don't want to admit it. It's this simple formula that has made the Jackass franchise a stalwart in our society regardless of naysayers decreeing it a foundational part of a supposed media downward spiral.

For those who haven't seen "Jackass 3D," the pacing is quicker and the stunts more outlandish than any of its predecessors. There also seems to be a hint of nostalgia laced throughout the film. If "Jackass 3D" ends up being the final film by Johnny Knoxville and his merry men, the franchise has embodied legacies most thought were dead.

While jazz is America's contribution to music, Vaudeville and silent film is surely the States' imprint on entertainment. Buster Keaton was doing stunt work at age five and credits his learning of how to fall properly for not only keeping him alive but any success he had in the entertainment industry. This sole quality has led everyone associated with Jackass to outlive their 15 minutes of fame.

The direct correlation between

Keaton's deadpan shtick, Harpo Marx's silent gimmickry along with Keaton's, Marx's and The Three Stooges' legendary sight gags with what "Jackass 3D" is doing now is uncanny. The "rocky" punch in the film is Marx, the "High Five" is Keaton, and the bathroom explosions are pure Charlie Chaplin. The 3-D effect is only window dressing.

Jackass not only embodies the heart and soul of Vaudeville today but presents a model of how to keep it viable. Normally this combination of surreal and absurdist humor get people legendary status (see the list above), instead we get Peter Travers, of all people, calling them "tired."

Sure, the "Poo Cocktail Supreme" seems familiar and some say it's too extreme, but there always needs to be films that push limits. Examine John Waters. Without "Pink Flamingos," "Female Trouble," and "Desperate Living" there wouldn't be people to push the envelope today like Quentin Tarantino that have made grindhouse and exploitation films common at the multiplex. At some point viewers have to look past the taboo of the transgressive film genre and see it as performance art.

It's funny that the general public needs to be told what's funny and what isn't. Directors like Waters or comedians like Lenny Bruce or Richard Pryor have shined a light on issues (homosexuality, race relations, drug use) that were taboo but have now become commonplace due to the power of laughter.

Let's be honest, mathematics is not the universal language, flatulence is.

E-mail J.P. Spence at j.spence@lavalleystar.com
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HALLOWEEN IS HIGH

Costumes and candy abound for the annual fright fest.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

"Eye of newt, and toe of frog. Wool of bat, and tongue of dog. Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting. Lizard's leg and owl's wing. For a charm of powerful trouble, like a hell-broth boil and bubble." – William Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Halloween is right around the corner. Still planning the perfect celebration? Consider the following:

Costumes:

Tau Alpha Epsilon's Halloween Costume Sale

The Valley College chapter of honor society TAE is selling costumes and accessories Tuesday – Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. in the Lion's Den, located next to the cafeteria. Prices range from \$1 to \$10. All products are new and were donated to Valley by Party City and other area Halloween and party shops. According to TAE member Zachary Paul, the club has already raised more than \$2,000, of which \$400 has been donated to charity. Remaining proceeds will be used to fund scholarships.

Cinema Secrets

4400 Riverside Drive
Burbank, CA 91505
(818) 846-0579

Every fall, Cinema Secrets transforms into Halloween Headquarters to attract horror fans from miles around. Costume prices range from \$30 to \$100. Makeup is their specialty. "We can sell five people the same costume but make them look totally different with makeup," said CEO Danny Stein. Walk-ins are welcome for simple to moderate makeup/effects applications that cost \$5 to \$20. Complex, studio-grade applications are by appointment only and run \$150 and up. Free makeup demos are available on weekends.

Halloween Adventure

13720 Riverside Drive
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

(818) 788-8042

Like most seasonal chain shops, the inventory is predictable. Witches and doctors and superheroes, oh my. You won't win any "most original costume" contests by shopping here, but you won't show up to the party dressed as a college student either.

Where to Go:

Los Angeles Haunted Hayride

Newly relocated to the Griffith Park Old Zoo, passengers of the haunted hayride board a hay-covered trailer hitched to a tractor and are driven by a madman to an uncertain fate.

www.losangeleshauntedhayride.com

The Comedy Store Midnight Séance & Flashlight Tour

Hear what paranormal researchers have to say and get a behind-the-scenes look at what has long been known as one of the most haunted places in Hollywood. 21+. www.thecomedystore.com

Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in 4D

This dazzling mix of fun and fright returns to the big screen at Hollywood's El Capitan Theater. Select dates feature a pre-show Pumpkin King dinner party.

www.elcapitan.go.com

Pierce College Halloween Harvest Festival

Features a pick-your-own pumpkin patch and Fright Fair Scream Park
www.halloweenharvestfestival.com

Soldiers (and your dentist) will thank you:

When Halloween has come and gone and you find yourself staring down the barrel of an uneaten bucket of Halloween candy, consider donating it to Soldiers' Angels, a non-profit organization that will forward your sugary stash, along with other needed and appreciated supplies, to soldiers serving overseas. www.soldiersangels.org

Candy donations should be sent to 4409 N. Pan Am Expressway, San Antonio, TX 78218.



DECISIONS - Kino Scialabba buys halloween props from Cinema Secrets.

"CONVICTION" LACKS CONVICTION

Oscar darlings Sam Rockwell and Hilary Swank hit and miss in made-for-TV-movie.

J.P.SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Regardless of how incredible a true story may be or how amazing the actors casted are, sometimes it just doesn't translate on screen. The fact that the audience knows where the direction "Conviction" is headed before the film really gets going relegates it to the Lifetime Movie Network, not the Cineplex. To the film's credit, "Conviction" is a remarkable true story. Betty Anne Waters (Hilary Swank) is an unemployed single mother who has to earn her GED, bachelor's, master's and eventual law degree in order to attempt to free her brother (Sam Rockwell), whom she feels has been wrongfully imprisoned following a murder conviction in 1983.

The idea was to bring A-list actors who could carry the emotional weight of the characters in hopes of making the film better. The problem is that they're portrayed so ubiquitously you don't

see Betty Anne Waters and her best friends as much as you see Hilary Swank, Minnie Driver, and Peter Gallagher.

This has been a reoccurring theme for Swank as of late. Between "Conviction," "Amelia" and "Freedom Writers," Swank has become the de facto bio pic leading lady. It's a compliment in the highest but it's now taking away any of the realism the film is trying to convey.

Rockwell and Juliette Lewis on the other hand have no problems becoming chameleons. Rockwell, who plays Waters' brother Kenny, makes a convincing turn from deadbeat slacker to man on the brink once in prison. Lewis makes scene-stealing an art form. Not since Viola Davis in "Doubt" has an actor made such an impact on a film with less than five minutes of screen time.

The writing and pacing is predictable, the dialogue is stilted and corny but this probably won't matter to the people who do want to see this film. Stay for the end credits and I defy you to tell me how believable the characters are after you see the real life portrait. Wait for this on basic cable.

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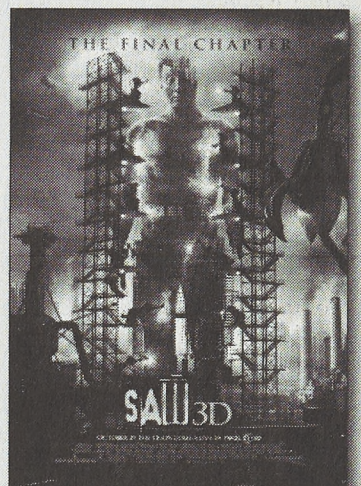


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DVD



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- WINTER'S BONE
- ALTITUDE
- BACK TO THE FUTURE: 25TH ANNIVERSARY TRILOGY

SONGS TOP DOWNLOADS



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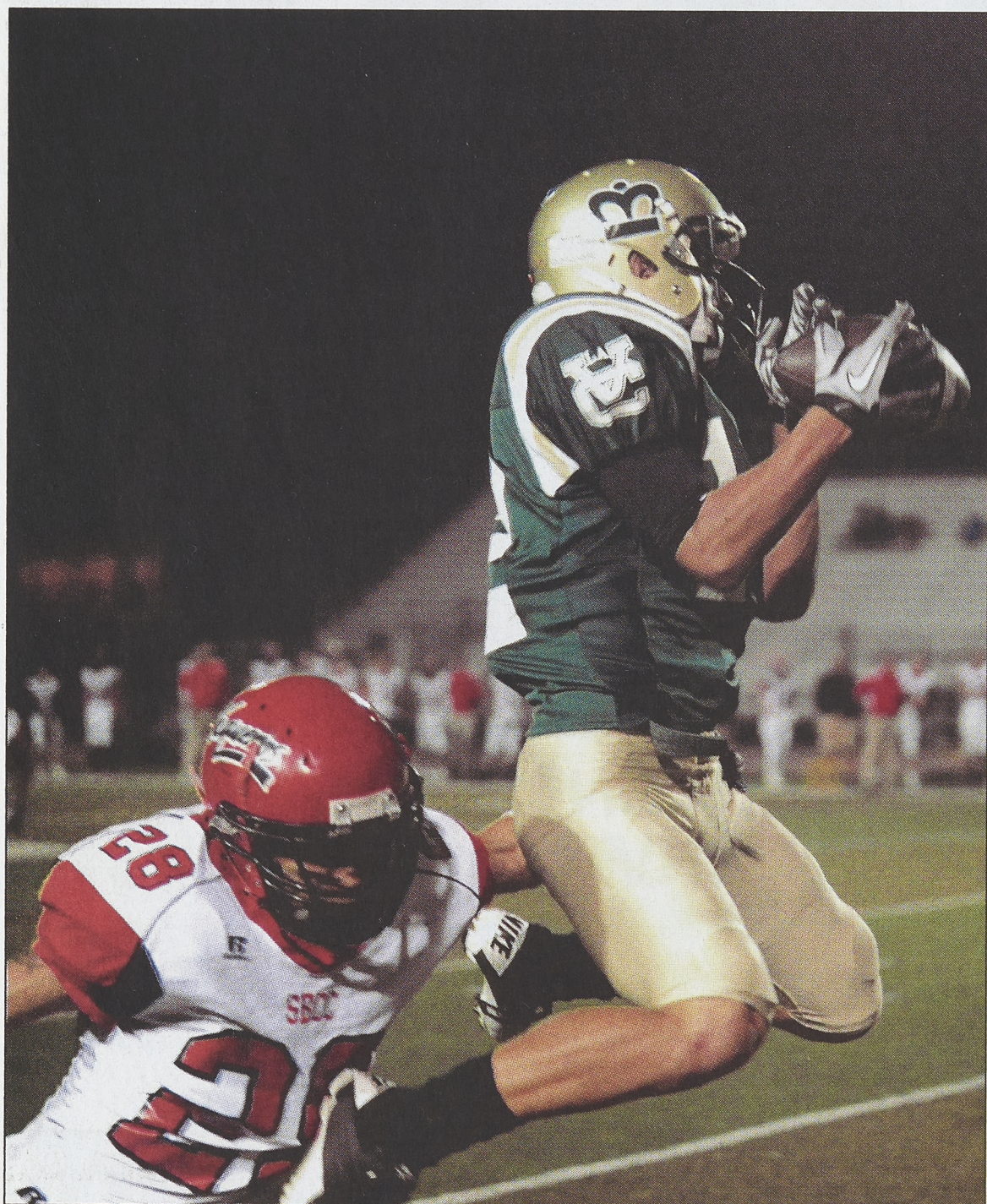
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- NELLY - JUST A DREAM
- BRUNO MARS - JUST THE WAY YOU ARE
- RIHANNA - ONLY GIRL (IN THE WORLD)
- TAYLOR SWIFT - BACK TO DECEMBER

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE: OCT. 27 HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
- LOTUS: OCT. 27 HOUSE OF BLUES SUNSET STRIP
- GORILLAZ: OCT. 27 GIBSON AMPHITHEATRE
- STONE TEMPLE PILOTS: OCT. 29 NOKIA THEATRE
- LADY ANTEBELLUM: OCT. 30 NOKIA THEATRE
- TIGER ARMY: OCT. 30 GROVE OF ANAHEIM
- DEAD MAN'S PARTY: OCT. 30 GALAXY THEATRE



UNDEFEATED

The Monarchs 30-24 victory against the Santa Barbara Vaqueros on Saturday night extended the Valley conference record to 3-0. The team will look to extend this 4-0 at home against the Santa Monica Corsairs.

SCOTT MITCHELL | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

MONARCHS UNABLE TO CONNECT AGAINST MISSION

The Lady Monarchs soccer team was unable to score any goals against Mission College.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE EDITOR

Bright and sunny skies welcomed the twenty or so people who watched last Friday's soccer match. The Lady Monarchs soccer team ended their game against Mission College with a draw after defeating them in a previous match.

"We could have done better," Valley College center midfielder Adrianna Blanco said. "We played way better and I don't know what happened to us today." I think we were playing under pressure and we wanted to win so bad that every time we would get the ball all of us wanted to score."

The last time the two teams met on Oct. 4, the Monarchs defeated Mission College 3-0. The loss gives Valley a record of 2-9-1 for the season

and a conference record of 1-6-1.

"I know that they're suffering from a few injuries and lost some key players but they try to play some good soccer," Mission College Head Coach Jesse Servin said. "They come out and they work hard every day and I think it's a good team and they're going to get better."

With a couple of close calls, each team battled to get through each other to score any goals. Mission worked together with a lot of energy offensively trying to make a goal and connect as many passes as they could to score points. The Lady Monarchs managed to block a couple of shots that were close from becoming goals but struggled to work together.

Blanco had a couple of passes close enough to make a goal but couldn't find the right moment to successfully get the ball inside the goal. Valley freshman and center midfielder Cindy Carvajal connected a lot of passes, but the passes did not turn into assists as every shot the team put up was blocked by the

Mission defense.

"Overall we dominated the game," said Head Coach Shane Watkins. "Frustrated not to win because we probably deserved one I felt, but it doesn't always work out the way you want it to." The Lady Monarchs play Pierce College Oct. 26. at 4 p.m. On their last match Pierce defeated the Monarchs 8-0. Watkins and company will look to redeem the previous shutout.



SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

RUNNING TOWARD A CHAMPIONSHIP

The Valley College men's cross-country team is looking for a championship title.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College men's cross-country team is taking the phrase "run forest, run" to a whole new level. With practices starting at 6 a.m., these boys are running nonstop in hopes of claiming the championship title.

And what better way to achieve this than to have a coach who is so determined to get them there. Head Coach Francois Wolman, has 30 years of coaching experience, 12 of which have been at Valley. He is passionate and determined

to take his 23 strong men to the championships. Originally from France, Wolman ran cross-country at Oregon State University. He also teaches French at Canyon High School and Valley on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Some of his athletes are even coming from different campuses such as Pierce College just to run cross-country at Valley.

"Our main goal is to go to the state championships, and win," said Wolman.

Ranked second in the Western State Conference and 11th in Southern California, the Monarchs have improved more each year. Along with running on the field, the team trains on local ground, such as Griffith Park and Reseda Hills. According to Wolman, the team is hardworking and extremely

close knit.

Recently the Monarchs placed 11th out of 36 in the Southern California Preview on Oct. 9. The following week at the Mt. San Antonio College Invitational, they placed an astonishing four out of 22 participants. Monarch runner Jorge Mendez placed fifth over the hilly course, with a time of 21:09. The Valley men came within two points of Mt. SAC, leaving them to be the third best team in Southern California.

Cross country is not the only thing in these young men's lives; school also plays an important factor. All athletes are required to be full-time students and maintain a GPA of 2.0 in order to remain on the team.

"Top athletes are usually top students," Wolman said.

VALLEY COLLEGE TRAINERS TALK HEAD INJURIES

Valley gets a head start on preventing cranial injuries.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

In 2003, 18-year-old Montana American League pitcher Brandon Patch was struck in the temple by a line drive that rocketed off a baseball bat. Patch sustained a concussion and a few hours later he became a martyr for baseball.

"When players get injured we pull them out and send them to the athletic trainers," Head Baseball Coach Dave Mallas said. "The kids lives are more important than the game and it's always better to be safe than sorry and err on the side of precaution."

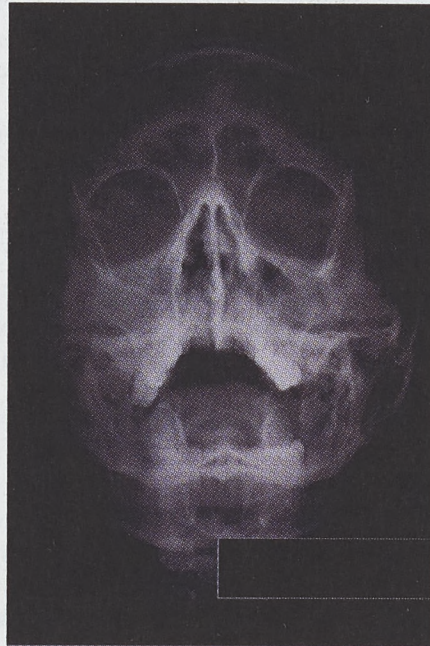
After several concussion-related deaths and injuries at the high school, college and professional levels of sports in recent years, preventative measures and changes in treatment are being taken on all ends of athletics.

"Without a doubt we're taking student concussions seriously," said Valley College Athletic Director Diedra Stark. "We show a film on concussions, the symptoms, importance and treatment to every athlete on every team every semester. And we send students with repeated incidences to the Concussion Institute."

Valley student athletes are not only shown a video on concussions, they are also given a medical exam and their medical history is taken before the sports season begins. This is done in order to determine whether or not the student is able to participate in sports and the individuals' likelihood of sustaining a concussion, or other injuries, throughout the season.

Student athletes who have a history of concussion, or that have possibly sustained a concussion, are sent to the Sports Concussion Institute in Santa Monica. Equipped with a state-of-the-art computerized neuropsychological assessment, SCI is able to detect previous concussions, the patient's current neurological status and risk of future concussions. After a determination is made by the specialists at SCI some athletes are withheld from athletic participation for weeks or even an entire season to ensure their safety.

"There are many ex-players with multiple upon multiple concussions, we don't know how many," Valley Athletic trainer



Angelo Cimity said. "We are trying to get players not to hide their concussions."

It is also recommended that athletes in high-risk sports get a baseline test done prior to beginning a new season because some athletes fail to or under report possible head injuries. According to SCI director Dr. Tony Strickland, athletes do not report concussions because they don't recognize the symptoms of a mild concussion or because they are afraid that if they are withheld from sports they can lose their chances at a scholarship or pro contract.

There are over 300,000 sports-related concussions reported yearly, although it is widely believed the actual number is much greater. Neuropsychologists, coaches and athletic trainers alike agree that education is key to preventing concussion related deaths.

"We at SCI believe that treatment begins before a concussion is sustained by raising awareness and educating on the symptoms and management," said Strickland, SCI director and board-certified clinical neuropsychologist.

Fortunately, SCI does more than discover past and present concussions, they also help patients recover from them using cognitive therapy and counseling to help players get back, and stay, in the games they love to play.

As a measure to further protect its students, Valley is working in conjunction with SCI to hopefully obtain a long term health plan for its student athletes with possible head injuries at a reasonable cost.

If you are interested in finding out more about treatment options or the symptoms associated with a concussion you can go to SCI's Web site at: www.concussiontreatment.com.

ANALYZE THIS FINES DON'T HIT PLAYERS WHERE IT HURTS...PLAYERS DO

Recent over-the-top hits in the NFL question the safety of the players on the field

LUCAS THOMPSON



After seven players were taken off of the field due to injuries during week five of the NFL season, zero was the number that defined injuries in week six. Many cite the NFL's "lecture to the players" for the decrease in injury and over the top hits.

I, however, disagree.

Of these seven players, three were the victims of standout hits during week five that included a monstrous hit to Cleveland Browns receiver Mohamed Massaquoi from Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison. Harrison was fined \$75,000 for the un-penalized helmet-to-helmet hit.

"And now you're telling me that everything that they've taught me from that time on, for the last 20-plus years, is not the way you're supposed to play the game anymore. If that's the case, I can't play by those rules. You're handicapping me," Harrison said on Sirius XM Radio.

Yes Mr. Harrison, that's exactly what they are asking. You see, the rules have changed a bit since you were a little oversized toddler playing pee-wee football and beating up on the under-matured kids who didn't eat their Campbell's Chunky soup every day. You run a 5.25 40-yard dash and you weigh 275 pounds. If by handicapping you, we mean enforcing the form-fit tackling methods you have been taught "for the last 20 years" as opposed to lunging yourself head first into a vulnerable receiver's helmet, than yes I suppose we better get you a handicap placard to place in your rearview ... I hear they have great parking at the Hometown Buffet.

"The education has grown in that area. I think the information is a lot more available," said Valley College Head Football Coach Jim Fenwick. "We lose players every week to injuries and we're not the only team."

High school, college, along with NFL doctors and trainers are all becoming more aware of the risks football, and more importantly, head injuries create. According to the New York Times, A year 2000 medical survey showed that out of 1,090 NFL players, more than 60 percent admitted to having a concussion and 26 percent claimed three or more.

"I think we have been aware of it before all the stuff with the NFL," said Fenwick "We've had videos to watch the last year or two [and] I think everything in the NFL will trickle down to everybody. Our priority will always be on the safety of the kids."

And so here is the bottom line; fining a multi-millionaire \$75,000 for a life-threatening hit is obviously meaningless. The NFL needs to look to being more aggressive with probations, suspensions and ejections to clearly dictate the message that helmet-to-helmet contact will not be tolerated. After all, everyone, including myself, who has played football at anytime in their life, started at a level where they were instructed how to safely tackle the opponent. I as a football fan am all for the big hits and excitement that follows ... but at the end of the day, it's about the safety of the guys on the field ... right?

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VALLEY COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

VENTURA INVITATIONAL
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
4TH PLACE

FRESNO INVITATIONAL -
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
8TH OUT OF 24

ORANGE COAST INVITATIONAL -
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
4TH PLACE

WSC PRELIMS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
3RD PLACE

SO. CALIFORNIA PREVIEW -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9
11TH OUT OF 36

MT. SAC INVITATIONAL -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
4TH OUT OF 22



RICARDO VARELA, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

RUNNIN' - The men's cross country team warms up Monday afternoon in anticipation of the Western State Conference Finals at Crescenta Valley on Tuesday.